



SOUTHAMPTON PUBLIC LIBRARIES

OPENING OF
BITTERNE BRANCH LIBRARY

by

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR

(COUNCILLOR A. H. POWDRILL)

Order of Proceedings

- 2.45-3 p.m. Assemble outside the Bitterne Branch Library, Cobbett Road.
- 3.0 p.m. Councillor W. Lewis, Chairman of the Public Libraries Committee, will ask His Worship the Mayor to open the main entrance door and declare the building open.
- 3.0-3.45 p.m. Inspection of the building. The Mayor will be invited to select the first book to be issued, and Councillor W. Lewis will request that he keep it as a souvenir of the occasion.
- 3.45 p.m. Proceed to the Masonic Hall, Rampart Road, for tea.
(Rampart Road is a few minutes' walk from the Library. Proceed along Bitterne Road towards town, over the Railway Bridge, and take the first turning on the right.)
- 4.0-5.0 p.m. Tea.
Councillor W. Lewis (Chairman).
His Worship the Mayor (Councillor A. H. Powdrill) will address the company.
A Vote of Thanks to the Mayor will be moved by Alderman Sir Sidney Kimber, J.P., and seconded by Councillor P. Barnes.
A Vote of Thanks to the Chairman will be moved by Councillor Dr. Barendt, and seconded by Mr. A. G. Steavenson, M.A.



COUNTY BOROUGH OF SOUTHAMPTON

NEW BRANCH LIBRARY
COBBETT ROAD, BITTERNE
SOUTHAMPTON

OPENED BY

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR
(Councillor A. H. Powdrill)

ON

TUESDAY, the 16th of MAY, 1939

PUBLIC LIBRARIES COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR A. H. POWDRILL

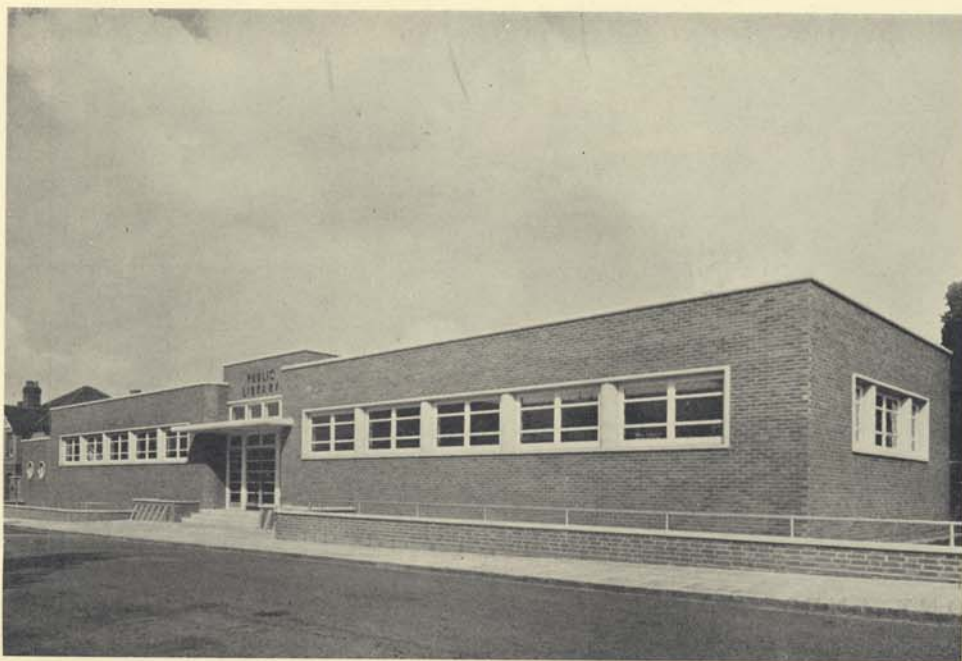
COUNCILLOR W. LEWIS, *Chairman*

ALDERMAN P. V. BOWYER, J.P.
ALDERMAN SIR SIDNEY KIMBER, J.P.
ALDERMAN T. LEWIS, J.P.
ALDERMAN J. L. E. MAFFEY
COUNCILLOR G. H. BARENDT
COUNCILLOR P. W. BARNES
COUNCILLOR A. GIBSON
COUNCILLOR E. C. HARVEY
COUNCILLOR MRS. V. F. KING, B.A.
COUNCILLOR H. MAYES
COUNCILLOR G. A. WALLER

Non-Council Members

MRS. G. E. A. BENNETT
MRS. W. LEWIS, O.B.E.
MRS. J. T. ROBB, J.P.
MR. R. MORLEY, J.P.
MR. F. G. RYDER
MR. A. G. STEAVENSON, M.A.

R. R. H. MEGGESON, B.A., Town Clerk
R. W. LYNN, Chief Librarian
S. G. STANTON, M.Inst.C.E., Borough Engineer



GENERAL VIEW

COUNTY BOROUGH OF SOUTHAMPTON

New Branch Library at Bitterne

THE great increase in recent years of the number of residents in the Bitterne and Bitterne Park districts rendered it imperative that an up-to-date and efficient library service be provided and with that aim in view the Libraries Committee endeavoured to find a suitable site. In view of the large development taking place in this district it was not an easy task, but in 1934 the site on which the new Library now stands was given to the Corporation by the Rev. F. C. Jenkins and Miss G. Vaughan Jenkins and their generosity solved the problem of the Libraries Committee.



FRONT ENTRANCE

Plans were prepared and following the receipt of competitive tenders and the necessary sanction of the Ministry of Health to the proposal, building operations were commenced.

The site, although in a good position, presented difficulties in its development in as much that lack of depth from Cobbett Road and existing property boundaries on two sides made satisfactory lighting and ventilation a difficult problem.

The new Library has been designed on the latest principles with a well-proportioned and dignified appearance which is merited by a public building of such importance.

The building is single storey and has an impressive entrance which gives access to the main entrance hall, containing the central control desk, from which the Librarian

is able to supervise the whole Library through large glazed windows and doors with ease. The walls of the hall are simply treated in waxed oak wall lining.

The Lending Library is of good proportion and scale.

The fittings contain approximately 7,000 volumes.

The walls are lined in oak and the impressive glass and concrete roof light gives ample natural light and ventilation.

The Junior Library is suitably arranged and contains approximately 2,000 volumes.

SIDE VIEW
OF
FRONT ENTRANCE





LENDING LIBRARY

Interesting features in the furnishings of the Junior Library are the study tables and desks with reference bookshelves which will give every facility for the use of the books in this section.

The Reading Room which adjoins the Junior room is similar in size and offers good opportunity for reading of newspapers and periodicals. It will be noted that the newspaper desks are of low height enabling the reader to sit in comfort instead of the more usual type, at which it was necessary to stand.

A small Reference Room is provided at the rear of the main hall and gives a convenient and quiet room for the study of usual reference volumes.

A bronze tablet, suitably inscribed, commemorating the opening of the building is fixed on the rear wall of this room.

Generally an air of spaciousness and comfort has been introduced by the restrained use of simple oak wall linings, good natural lighting and well-designed furniture.

The absence of the usual visible means of heating has enabled utmost use to be made of floor space and eliminates unsightly pipes and radiators. It is interesting to note that the building is heated by a system of underfloor heating which is thermostatically controlled. By this means the whole floor surface radiates heat at a low temperature. Mechanical stoking is provided to the heating boiler and this in turn thermostatically controlled, thus giving maximum economy of fuel.

JUVENILE ROOM





READING ROOM

The remaining accommodation consists of Librarian's Office, Staff Room and Lavatories, Stores, Heating Chamber, and a small Discussion Room on the mezzanine floor.

In conclusion the underlying principles of the whole building have been the use of carefully chosen materials, well proportioned and tasteful design, simple but efficient construction and well-considered colour schemes.

LIST OF CONTRACTORS

The General Contractors were Messrs. JENKINS & SONS, WATERLOO TERRACE, whose tender was £8,189

The sub-contractors under the general contract were :

BLOKCRETE CO. LTD., SOUTHAMPTON : Artificial stone

A. BUCKETT, BITTERNE : Electrical installation

WM. DIBBEN & SONS, LTD. : Steel framework and ironmongery

GRANWOOD FLOORING CO., LTD., DERBY : Patent underfloor heating and floor finishes

GENERAL ELECTRIC CO., LTD., SOUTHAMPTON : Electrical equipment

I.C.I. LTD. : "Pioneer" plaster finishes

J. A. KING & CO., LTD., LONDON : Roof lights

LIMMER & TRINIDAD LAKE ASPHALT CO., LTD., SOUTHAMPTON : Asphalt roof coverings

MORRIS SINGER CO., LONDON : Bronze letters

STRONGCRETE CO., LTD., BOURNEMOUTH : Concrete construction

The Furnishing Contractors were Messrs. SOUTHAMPTON STEAM JOINERY WORKS, whose tender was £1,330

The sub-contractors under the furnishing contract were :

LIBRACO LTD., LONDON : Loose furniture and special library equipment

SHEPHERD & HEDGER, SOUTHAMPTON : Chairs

DALE, BRIGHTON : Lettering

SOUTHERN NEWSPAPERS
LIMITED